Independent audit clears high court of misuse of JDF

SC guard stops solon



By Robert Abato and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY — The sign at the gate of the Supreme Court compound reads, "No ID, no entry."

SC GUARD/A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Even if the President has to call out the army'

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO days of unprecedented oral arguments at the Supreme Court ended at 7:35 last night, with a former solicitor general reminding the high court that it is the President who will enforce its decision—even if she has to call out the army.

EVEN/A11

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph · Friday, November 7, 2003 · 34 pages / vol. 18 / no. 332 · website: www.inq7.net

NPC solons fear lack of quorum on Nov. 10

Impeachment bloc worried majority won't show up

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia Balana

WITH THE Supreme Court still undecided about intervening in the impeachment crisis, the focus of public attention has begun to shift to the House of Representatives.

And the question making its way through the halls of Congress is: Will there be a quorum on Monday when the House resumes session?

The battle for numbers comes to a head on Nov. 10, the deadline for the House to transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

But Manila Rep. Harry Angping, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition which spearheaded the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., said he feared that the ruling Lakas-CMD party may try to abort the resumption of sessions.

And Rizal Rep. Michael John "Jack" Duavit, also of the NPC, said pro-impeachment congressmen were praying their colleagues would not play truant on Monday. A quorum is needed to transmit the Articles of Impeachment.

A multi-party caucus last week agreed that the impeachment complaint will be transmitted to the Senate, provided there's a quorum and the number of signatories to the complaint will not be fewer than 76. At least 116 congressmen, or "a majority plus one," must answer the roll call on Monday for the House to transact business.

In a statement issued by his staff, Duavit said he was disturbed by reports that some pro-

NPC/A11



FAMOUS for 15 minutes or so are the new kids on the block who are circling the wagons for the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. They visit the Inquirer headquarters on Thursday night to explain why. From left, Representatives Joseph Santiago (Catanduanes), Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio (South Cotabato), Felix William "Wimpy" Fuentebella (Camarines Sur) and Rep. Jack Duavit (Rizal).

Court employees sharply divided

By Philip C. Tubeza in Manila and Carla P. Gomez PDI Visayas Bureau

THE IMPEACHMENT of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. over the alleged misuse of the Judiciary Development Fund has sharply divided employees of the courts.

Members of the Alliance of Court Employees Associations of the Philippines (Aceap) will go on mass leave on Monday to protest efforts to stop Davide's impeachment, its spokesperson Nene Rafael said yesterday.

But Ms. Cecilia Flores, chair of the Philippine Confederation of Court Employees Association (Philconcea), questioned Aceap's ability to rally the judiciary's 25,000 employees to join the protest action, saying it was not

COURT/A10

Wimpy apologizes to auditor

By Armand N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana

REP. Felix William Fuentebella has apologized, the auditor of the Commission on Audit distressed by his supposed attacks on radio said yesterday.

"He apologized," Cecilia Cagananan, who prepared the COA report on the controversial Judiciary Development Fund, told the Inquirer in a phone interview. She said Fuentebella had called her up to say that it was actually he who wanted to shield her from "pressure" owing to certain court cases that could one day go up to the Supreme Court.

"But I told him, 'I have no pending case before the court. You are the one giving me the pressure,'" Cagananan said.

WIMPY/A10

'INDEPENDENT' AUDIT

House 'exaggerated' high court spending

By Alcuin Papa

THE RESULTS of an "independent" audit conducted by a group led by a University of the Philippines law professor showed nothing wrong with how the controversial Judiciary Development Fund was disbursed.

Prof. Ma. Lourdes Sereno said the amounts that the Supreme Court spent for curtains, chairs and cars were "exaggerated" by members of the House of Representatives to justify their impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

"Our study revealed that the 80-20 (percent) use of the JDF was strictly followed," Sereno said at a media forum in Manila yesterday. "An impeachment is the wrong forum to resolve any

HOUSE/A11

SC told law 'superior' even to Davide

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

REPRESENTATIVES of both houses of Congress raised contrasting views before the Supreme Court yesterday, on the second day of oral arguments over the Davide impeachment crisis.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. bluntly told 14 associate justices of the high court that the rule of law was "superior" even to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., and "must apply to all—good or bad."

Pimentel, arguing before the high court as an intervenor, claimed that the magistrates did not have the "plenary and exclusive" power to stop Davide's impeachment.

Davide had inhibited himself from the hearing.

But House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales, along with Rep. Salacnib Baterina and their lawyer Jose Bernas, asked the court to immediately intervene in

SC/A12

Pro-Gringo 'Guardians' set Makati rally today

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

A FACTION of the Guardians Brotherhood, a group closely linked to Sen. Gregorio Honasan, has announced that it is staging a rally in the Makati business district today as fears of military intervention in the standoff between Congress and the Supreme Court over the impeachment of the Chief Justice mount.

Erneste Macabiya, spokesperson of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), said on Wednesday that the rally had nothing to do with any military rebellion. He said it was aimed at condemning the alleged "unconstitutional intervention" of the Supreme Court in the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

He said some 5,000 PGBI members would join the rally. PGBI claims to have millions of members nationwide. Honasan is said to be its president and supremo.

PGBI was the same group that led a rally in Makati at the height of the coup staged by the Magdalo Group on July 27.

Authorities believed that the group was the civilian component of the plot to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Macabiya told the Inquirer that

PRO-GRINGO/A10

Palace work stops for 'chinovela' star

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FORGET the impeachment.

No, forget all national crises.

Work stopped in Malacañang for nearly three hours yesterday as Cabinet officials and Palace employees and their children, plus orphans, cancer patients, journalists, and other star-struck fans turned up to give Jerry Yan, star of the popular chinovela "Meteor Garden" a welcome that was rather unprecedented.

No, try "frenzied."

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye thought the reception in some ways rivaled the one laid out for United States President George W. Bush last Oct. 18. Similarly, it broke the record set by Thalia, phenomenal star of the Mexican telenovela "Marimar," who visited the Palace in 1997 during the term of President Fidel Ramos.

"This is such a welcome respite ... let's enjoy it," Speaker Jose de Venecia's wife Gina said as she waited with popular hairdresser Ricky Reyes for their turn with the Taiwanese actor.

Pandemonium broke loose in the hallowed Malacañang Ceremonial Hall when Yan, popularly known as Dao Ming Si in the TV series, emerged from his courtesy call with President Macapagal-Arroyo in the music room to pose for snapshots with almost 300 people.

Tall and good-looking, with his trademark tousled hair, not to for-

PALACE/A10



METEORIC frenzy at the Palace happens over the star of "Meteor Garden" Jerry Yan who pays a courtesy call on President Macapagal on Thursday.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Critics put polls in doubt—Abalos

THE SEVERE criticism that the Commission on Elections has been receiving will lead people to believe that the 2004 elections is doomed to fail, according to its chair, Benjamin Abalos.

'Flying voters' face penalties

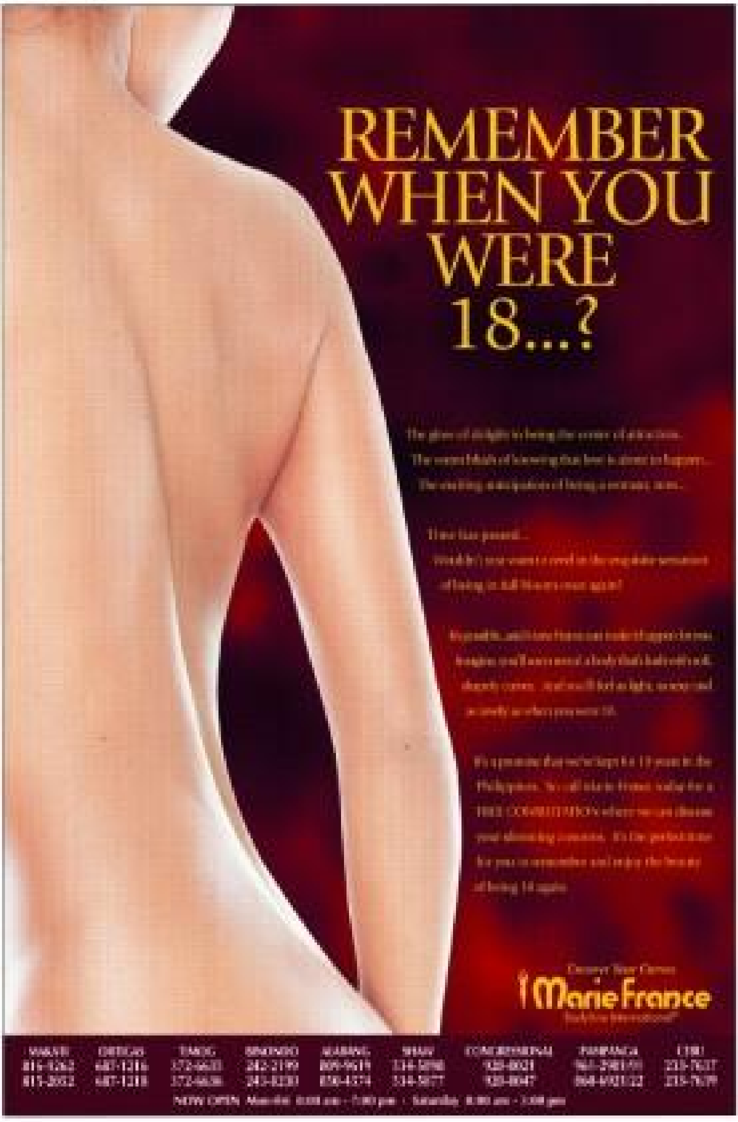
Lawyer says Imelda is in London hospital

Palace asks impeachment solons to accept covenant

It's 90% go for FPJ, says Sotto

No show

No enemies



Naia 3 row won't reach arbitration, says expert



VISITING THE QUEEN

Ople slams US, Australia for antiterror advisories

Desierto cleared of forgery charge

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Crime victims bewail delay of cases

Sinos seen in Spratlys







SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE





NEW CONTROVERSY LOOMS

PSC shifts media stance

The WORLD

Laborer admits strangling 48 women in US



RIDGWAY

Reports: Iraq offered deal days before war



Sri Lanka leader tightens grip; no unrest in Colombo

Palestinian leaders seek to heal split



RIGHTEOUS Brothers, Bill Medley, right, and Bobby Hatfield, left, pose in this March 19, 2003, file photo.

Righteous Brothers' Bobby Hatfield dies at hotel at age 63

4 ex-Rwanda ministers on trial for genocide

SARS vaccine will take 2 years–WHO

AP



Pro-Gringo 'Guardians'...

Meddling

Three groups mentioned

Meeting in law office

Close watch

Not surprising

Discussion

SC guard stops solon



HOPING to get to the root of the Davide impeachment, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla wants to inspect the P36 million duplex in the Supreme Court compound in Baguio City but is barred entry.

Tourist attraction

Wrong signal

Hot and cold

Praise, hate

Palace work stops for 'chinovela' star

No fainting

Swoon!

Shy, kind, handsome

Orphans, indigents

No politics

Like schoolgirls

Gina likes dimples

Court employees...

Red shirts

Mass leave

Violation of rules

Penalties

Family conference

Solution mechanics

Family problem

Manifesto

Pangasinan

'Even if the President has to call out the army'

Senate caucus

No one from House

Don't wait for history

NPC solons fear lack of quorum on Nov. 10

Party-list, too

House 'exaggerated' high court spending

Cash flow analysis

Heated debate

Heated debate

Wimpy apologizes . . .

Witness

Closing ranks

Gag order

Saving billions

Thankful

Unfortunate

SC told law 'superior' even to Davide

Snub

Awkward

Calming

Answer with SC



Anthony puts James in the shade

Arenas triple double sparks Wizards; Nash injured

K.O. SHOWDOWN

Purefoods favored over Alaska

PUREFOODS and Alaska dispute today the last quarterfinal seat in Group A of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.



SPORTS BITS

Big Clijsters start; Capriati, Rubin gain

A Texas-sized Tour Championship duel

Golf great Palmer to remarry at 74

Libyan leader's son flunks dope test

Arevalo keeps RP colors flying

23rd Pasig Tenpin Open attracts topnotch field

Rebounding Eala

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



Boxing fever grips Kidapawan

By Sabas L. Lagarilay
Contributor

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The 15,000-capacity provincial gym has been spruced up. Giant boxing billboards have been put up. Bump models have been hired as round-card girls.

Everything is in place as a boxing fever grips this capital for Sunday's grand San Miguel Cup-backed boxing card top-billed by Pelsie Cabilis' challenge to WBC International flyweight champion Randy Mangubat in a 12-round showdown.

[illegible]

ABS-CBN tie-up boosts PBL stock

By Ney Laurea


TRINIDAD: PBL's chance to grow

A DYNAMIC viewership and a more action-packed coverage are in the offing for the Philippine Basketball League starting with its Platinum Cup tomorrow at the Pasig Sports Center.

These plus factors were assured following the new partnership forged between the PBL and broadcast giant ABS-CBN through its Studio 23.

Under the agreement, Studio 23 will air PBL games live from 2-4 p.m. every Saturday, and from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. This package assures a minimum of 43 games for the duration of the Platinum Cup.

"This (Studio 23 airing), plus our continued presence on Solar Sports, which also brings the NBA to local viewers, puts the PBL in prime position to expand its years to come," said PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad.

Solar Sports will air games not shown on Studio 23, which comprises at least a third of games up to the semifinals. Both outfits will jointly air the Finals on live simulcast.

[illegible]

"This is an excellent opportunity for PBL to grow along with our target audience, most of whom are also fans of local college basketball's best players," added Trinidad.

[illegible]



Karters ready for final races

STANDINGS: Open Class—[illegible]


BUMGARNER: Way ahead

TOP karters gear up for the final showdown in the championship round of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series slated today and tomorrow at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

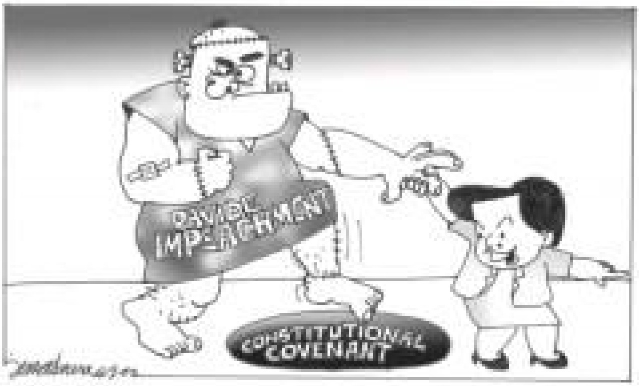
[illegible]

Legend Tee fund-raiser up tomorrow in Subic

ALL roads lead to Subic Bay tomorrow where the third Legend Tee golf tournament, a fund-raising tournament for Tabang Mindanao to help indigenous people and war victims in Mindanao, is staged at the Subic Bay Golf and Country Club in the Subic Bay Freeport.

[illegible]

INQUIRER OPINION



What's the rap?

EDITORIAL

MEMBERS of the [illegible]

Confused minds at Supreme Court hearing

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Still, none better

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

Who's the enemy?

FOREIGN COMMENT

[illegible]

Specter of junta



ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

Shattered hope

HIGH BLOOD

Silverio F. Aquino

The seamless robe of human rights

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

Open letter to some 'Spice' and 'Bright Boys'

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

Who can trust senators sitting as judges?

LETTERS

Geographical rotation of UN Security Council seats

Abusive MMDA men

More on the Davide impeachment

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Roco allies pooh-pooh party switch

East Samar town gets P15M for new roads

Bridges, too

Gratitude

BCDA announces plan to restore gambling in Baguio resort area

GMA promises enforcement of IP dev't



Gloria vows to make anti-drug campaign tougher

Realty firm banks on progress, population boom south of Metro



GenSan dad seeks end to vigilante killings

Strike at Bacolod courts continues

Row on traffic revives Marcos, Fariñas rift

Countdown for Justice





Judge in slapping case faces raps

2 hurt as fire hits QC paint factory

Gary V's SUV stolen



VALENCIANO

2 WPD lawmen charged with robbery

METROBRIEFS

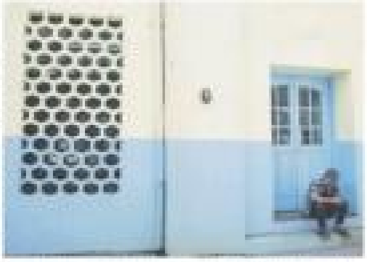
Attackers nabbed

Woman pinned

Killer cargo truck

Caught on camera

Manila set to lose another centuries-old structure









Sportswatch



Evans lifts Snipers past Grachiya

Quirimit, other Tour aces in 1st MM race

TOUR Pilipinas 2003 champion Arnel Quirimit heads an 84-man field vying for P180,000 in prizes in this Sunday's first-ever Tour of Metro Manila, a 114-km massed start race that begins and ends at the Marikina City Sports Park.



You've got the moves? Troop to Rockwell for Nike Face Off



Igan Cup starts today at Eastridge

Magic of Moab: All that spells adventure



Racing Tips

SUERTRES 6 6 6
SIX DIGIT 4 3 9 1 0 7
SUPERLOTTO 6/49 4 5 8 15 42 43

METRO

E-mail: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

Owners of illegal taps get last chance

By Tessa Quismundo

GO LEGAL or go to jail.

The warning goes out to Tondo, Manila, residents who would be found having an illegal water connection.

Philip Ramos, Maynilad Water Services Inc. area manager, said people discovered to have unauthorized water lines would be given 24 hours to have their connections legitimized.

Beyond that, Ramos added, their water supply would be cut off and even face criminal prosecution.

According to the Water Code Act of 1995, home owners who use illegal water connections face stiff fines or six years in imprisonment.

Ramos, however, explained that people who had illegally tapped into Maynilad's pipes would not be rushed to pay the required fees.

The 24-hour deadline would be for "expressing their intent" to legalize their connection after the illegal tap had been discovered.

The owner of the illegal water line will then be given a week to pay the P500 application fee and up to one year to pay the P8,179 installation fee.

Since the Maynilad began repairing the water system in Tondo, particularly in the areas hit by an outbreak of gastroenteritis, 192 leaks have been repaired.

Of this number, 21 were identified as "outright illegal" connections.

Manila Mayor Jose Atienza Jr. said in a press briefing with Maynilad and Department of Health officials that City Hall would strictly enforce the law on illegal water connections.

Atienza said he has ordered barangay officials to report illegal connections to the Maynilad and assist the water firm in implementing the law.

Much of the blame for the recent gastroenteritis outbreak has been put on the damage caused by unauthorized water taps on the water system.

During the same briefing, Maynilad President Rafael Alunan III said efforts to stop further contamination were continuing.

Alunan said Maynilad would be spending around P200 million this year to repair leaks, disconnect illegals and lay down new pipes.

The same time, the Manila City Health Department and the Department of Health have started parallel investigations on the causes of the Oct. 23 to Nov. 2 outbreak.

Alunan said every citizen should be mindful of his duty and responsibility to protect the water system to prevent a system breakdown.

This developed as Sen. Manny Villar called on the government to punish negligent officials found responsible for the outbreak in Tondo.

The senator also urged the inspection of the quality of water being sold in water refilling stations after one such business was found selling tainted water.

NCRPO beefs up security around U-belt

By Tina Santos

THE NATIONAL Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) is tightening security around universities and schools in Metro Manila to prevent criminals from victimizing students, especially with the run-up to the Christmas season.

NCRPO chief Reynaldo Velasco yesterday ordered his men to secure the students amid reports of rising crimes around school areas.

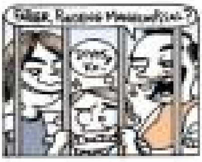
"Expect the influx of high-profile and street crimes especially now that the Christmas season nears. But be assured that our policemen are doing their best to curbing such incidents," Velasco said.

He noted that most of the victims of street crimes were students.

"They're very vulnerable that's why they often fall prey to the criminals," he said.

Furthermore, he pointed out that any parent would prioritize the safety of his child, which prompts the urgency of protecting the students.

He said the fielding of bus detectives to secure the public, especially students, against holdup men would continue.



'Missionary' for inmates almost jailed

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A CON ARTIST who pretended to be a priest raising funds for inmates was himself almost jailed in Malabon City yesterday.

The suspect, who identified himself as Eric Cabangon or Fr. Eric, 28, went to the office of Malabon police chief Pedro Ramos at about 11 a.m. the other day and asked for a donation for a supposed foundation helping prisoners.

Ramos was moved by the "priest's" narration of the foundation's activities and decided to give Cabangon P1,000.

But before handing over the money, the police chief thought of asking some identification from Cabangon.

However, all that Cabangon could produce was an old ID from a cathedral in Basilan. The ID also did not say that he was a priest.

Ramos asked for other documents that would prove that Cabangon was a priest and that he indeed worked for a foundation, but the man could not give Ramos anything.

The police chief got suspicious and asked if Cabangon could call any friend or a fellow priest to confirm his identity. Cabangon, however, could not name anyone.

Thus, Ramos prepared a complaint for estafa against Cabangon, who was detained at the police chief's office for verification.

The suspect later told the Inquirer, "I have done no wrong. God has a plan in making this happen to me."

He said he was a priest before, but he left the church to pursue his charity work. He added that he worked for a foundation before, but that he was now doing rounds in the city jails by himself.

After several hours, Ramos ordered Cabangon released after the suspect asked to be put in jail and began preaching to the detainees.

BUSINESS

Oct. dollar reserves up 4.5% to $16.89B

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower



Lies, damned lies and JDF statistics

Cocktales

Victor C. Agustin

Hidden Gem

Heard through the grapevine

5 PERCENT LIMIT ON INVESTORS

PSE to ask SEC to ease ownership restrictions

Right pace of trade liberalization

COMMENTARY

Background

Recommendation

Apec

Rising cost of shipping services hits Napocor

Peso hits two-week high

Gov't seen sticking to economic targets

Motorola moves to increase market share

Pre-need firms seek easing of actuarial valuation rules

ALI to issue ₱2B worth of bonds

Cocktales . . .

Oct. dollar . . .

PLDT to sell, lease out idle assets

Disclosures

Stocks end lower . . .

LifeStyle of Home



Gift shop's gift to party givers





SLEEK cup and saucer sets from France (between P1,250 to P2,050)



FRUIT bowl (P2,950) and jar (P1,050) engraved with leaf patterns from Romania



QUARTZ necklace and a Christmas ball made of capiz



WATER glasses, mostly from France (between P115 to P275)

Gift shop's gift to party givers

Kish's colors go beyond red and green, reflecting the rich, festive and multicultural side of the season

A pair of beaded rubber slippers from Bali, which come in several neutral and fruity shades, can set back the giver by P275. Cake trays, the kind that harks back to the 1950s, cost P4,150 each, while clear and amber colored candleholders with dangling elements cost P3,200 each.

Those still into minimalism may want to check out a set of French-made trays that double as planters (P4,950). Whether you're feeling Zen or bohemian, you may choose from a dozen or so trays and bowls that come in various shapes, sizes, inspirations and materials.

Are you in a laidback mood? Kish offers a wide range of throw pillows that are fringed, beaded or quilted. Although shades go beyond the traditional red and green, they nevertheless reflect the rich, festive and multicultural side of the season.

Kish also carries an array of scented candles in yummy and earthy colors. And to fully live up to its name as a lifestyle store, My Sugar Life will also feature ready-to-wear clothing as well as the latest fashion publications.

E-mail the author at [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph



EYE-CATCHING table lamps (P3,400 each) from France



CANDLE holders in transparent glass and amber from China (between P320 to P600)



THROW pillows galore (between P1,250 to P1,500)



BEADED slippers from Bali (P475 a pair)



NON-SCRATCH trays (P1,950 each) and glass (P230), both from France

T-shirt painting tilt for kids

GOINGS ON

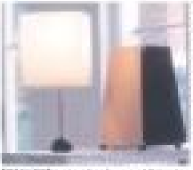


MOA SIGNING



THE TIK series' innovative sculptural design stands out from the pack, and comes in high-gloss lacquer finishes in black, yellow, red, blue and white.

The movie in my mind



SPEAKERS make a handsome addition to home interiors.



WOODEN cabinets that are as functional as they are decorative.





The movie in my mind

With home theater, you watch movies in style and with the right crowd—your family and friends

By [illegible]

THE DAYS of watching your favorite movies in cold urban hubs crammed with strangers may be numbered. A new entertainment technology allows the cinema lover to create her own rules, style, and crowd.

[illegible]

Electronic-friendly

[illegible]

Affordable range

[illegible]

LIFESTYLE



WALDMANN'S green lettuce is a great base for salad.

Salad greens straight from garden to table

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Richard Reyes

YOU see these diminutive salad vegetables at some restaurants and a few selected groceries. Popularly known as micro greens, saladini and mesclun, these leafy vegetables are among the new range of salad greens that have become favorite items in gourmet restaurants and cafés in town. They include mini lettuces, pakchoy, curly parsley, onions, cress, arugula, spinach and many more.

[illegible]

Pesticide-free

[illegible]

IBP to sue violators of environment laws

SEEING GREEN



[illegible]

Cycle for clean air

[illegible]

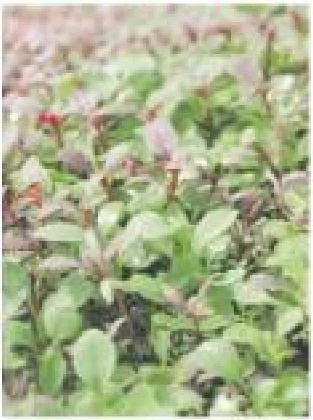


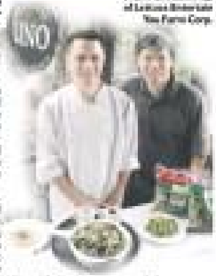


Festival of Trees

[illegible]

Salad greens straight from garden to table





Greens for health



Freshfield vegetables are grown without pesticides, washed in plain water and packed without preservatives



Weekend homes with ready-made flower gardens





THE ELEGANT Omni Saigon Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) beckoning to visitors



Ho Chi Minh City gave us a glimpse of a society in transition and a nation's dynamic future



The heat goes on in Saigon









WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache













